



Operation Desert Strike



Special Deployment Issue, Volume 2

Battalion Occupies Dona Ana, Prepares for Upcoming Operations

Battling fierce winds, sand storms, and unfamiliar terrain, the First Strike Battalion concludes its Reception, Staging, and Onward Integration (RSOI) operations this week in the Dona Ana base camp approximately 25 miles north of Fort Bliss, Texas. Strained relations between the Republic of Texas and the New Mexican People's Forces have heightened tensions in the region, threatening the safety of neighboring populations. In response, the Army's First Cavalry Division has deployed its "First Strike" MLRS Battalion, 1-21 Field Artillery, and attached deep operations units to deter further hostilities in the region. "Should our best efforts to prevent armed conflict fail, however," Secretary of Defense Cheney explained at a press conference Friday, "We must be prepared to respond, even if it requires the use of military force."

Thus far, First Strike troops have successfully deployed all of the battal-



ion's vehicles into theater, begun section certification, and rehearsed contingency operations. Mission readiness is the focus throughout the base camp, and leaders are exercising every available moment to better prepare their troops for whatever missions lie ahead.

The presence of First Cavalry Troops in the

contested region has drawn enthusiasm and encouragement from the local population. Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Charles Spore, who fought with the First Cavalry in Korea in 1951, voiced his approval of calling on the First Team for this mission. "I haven't seen that patch since '51," he told First Strike soldiers downloading

their vehicles from railcars at Fort Bliss, "And it sure feels good to see it now."

Morale is high as soldiers prepare for upcoming missions. "This is a million dollar operation," the battalion commander reminded his troops, "and Uncle Sam is getting his money's worth."

OPERATION DESERT STRIKE

Striker 6 Sends:

For our Desert Storm, Kosovo, and Bosnia veterans, RSOI activities are old hat. When units arrive in theater, they normally have time to receive their equipment and field combat power prior to receiving their first order. Operation Desert Strike has tested the battalion's ability to perform multiple missions simultaneously while preparing for our first mission. I'm pleased to tell you that the first strike battalion has successfully completed this phase of the operation and is poised to conduct TAA and combat operations. You know better than I what you have done to make the battalion successful. But for the record, I'll list a few of your outstanding accomplishments.

In a smooth, well-orchestrated operation, you have downloaded 55 railcars and 6 line hauls. You reconfigured radios, bows, canvases, and basic loads. You occupied the base camp, established battery and battalion CP's, barracks, motor pools, and dining facilities. Combined with the Chapel, Aid Station and recreation center, we have a fully functional camp to provide all mission essential life support. You completed directed Pre-combat checks and inspections (PCC/PCI's) and training that ensured proficiency in crew drill, PMCS, and driving in the desert. You conducted crew certification, leader certification, rehearsals, and responded to SCUD attacks. Our communications section, led by 1LT Tim "Spitfire 6" Krause and SFC Hernandez, established satellite communications with the rear detachment at Fort Hood and made it possible for us to blast CL IX requisitions to the 27th MSB at Fort Hood. Our mechanics and soldiers from the 27th MSB repaired automotive, missile, and digital equipment during late nights in the motor pool to make us combat capable.

In all of these and many more tasks, you demonstrated professionalism, excellence, standards, and discipline. You should be proud of your performance. You have set the conditions for success on the battlefield. Now it's time to execute. You and your loved ones are in my prayers. Train hard, train safe.

--First Strike!



Mail Call

Just a reminder -- our address is as follows:

Full Name and Rank

SSN

1-21 Field Artillery

c/o Post Locator BLDG 1733

Fort Bliss, TX 79916

Your Mail is Important!

Sports Headlines from around the Nation:



(AP Photo)

Today's Final Round of the Master's Tournament pits Tiger Woods (above) against the field's finest as he vies for his fourth majors title this year. He currently holds a one-stroke lead over Phil Mickelson. Mark Calcavecchia and Chris DiMarco are also in contention, tied at two strokes behind Woods.

NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT. . .

-CPL(P) Brett Seefeldt, Bravo Battery, 1-21FA was named Distinguished Honor Graduate of the most recent III Corps PLDC graduation. Also on the commandant's list was SPC (P) Lambert, HHS, 1-21FA. Also graduating was CPL Morgan from HHS Battery.

-"Grasscutter 6," the DIVARTY Commander formerly known as Red Team 6 spearheaded efforts within the Red Team. A big hooah to our rear detachment troops who toiled long hours to beautify and clean up Fort Hood in addition to their rear detachment duties.



Command Sergeant Major's Corner

A word about why soldiers fight: it is not for national pride, nor for love of country. It is the soldier's need to protect his "battle buddy" in the foxhole—and to know his fellow soldiers will do the same for him—that inspires men to fight. Soldiering has been founded on this belief for centuries, and soldiers have lived and died for one another long after all other motivations have been forgotten. All soldiers have a battle buddy. Know your battle buddy and protect his flanks at all times, as he is protecting yours.

Let's talk for a moment about the unseen enemy. Unfamiliar terrain and sand storms can diminish our ranks as quickly as enemy artillery if we do not exercise caution. Remember the capabilities of your vehicles and the experience of your crew; we cannot afford to lose one soldier to the terrain.

Lastly, do not forget your loved ones. Our mail system is in place, and we will ensure that your mail reaches its intended recipients. Write home—your families are thinking of you.

--Striker 9